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## PREFACE

In the following pages an attempt is made to bring our museum to those who are unable to visit with us in person. There are two parts to this paper, the objective portion in which the museum is described and the subjective portion in which certain concepts are set forth as the basis upon which the displays have been built.

The reader should bear in mind that these concepts are those of individuals and that many would take exception to them. These do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Society as a whole nor of the individual members of the Museum Committee. In a society as large and diversified as ours it would indeed be difficult if not impossible to find a common concept or to set up a museum display which would be acceptable to all. As new knowledge becomes available our museum displays will be altered correspondingly so as to reflect the advances in thought.

Our efforts have been directed toward the creation of a living museum, one which would teach as well as entertain the visitor; it is also designed to fit the needs of an amateur rather than a professional public.

The illustrations which accompany this paper are the work of two of our members, "The Romance of Archaeology" by Robert Coburn of Middleboro, Mass., and the display pictures by Arthur Alvin of the Alvin Studios, Attleboro, Mass.

THE EDITOR.

To us the picture on the opposite page typifies the spirit of archaeology as it is practised by an amateur archaeological society. This picture was not posed, indeed the individuals were unaware that they were being photographed; it is an actual scene taken at the "dig" of one of our several active Chapters. It is typical because in it are persons of all ages; in their faces and attitudes are represented all of the stages of human interest from the little chap who has apparently fallen asleep, through the excited interest of middle age to the contemplative absorption of maturity. To us this picture is representative of the common interest which binds us together in a common purpose. It has been well named, "The Romance of Archaeology".







## INTRODUCTION

Each year, when the members of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society gather in convention to transact the business of the society and to hear the reports of the several individuals to whom the various specific tasks within the organization have been entrusted, the Director is called upon to report upon the activities of the museum. On these occasions the thought arises that only a small portion of the membership hears the reports or are able to visit our museum and to make use of its facilities. The financial report of the museum committee, because of its rather microscopic proportions, must inculcate a most distorted picture of our museum activities. This number of the Bulletin is an outgrowth of that thought and an endeavor to bring the museum to our entire membership.

Upon reading the following pages in which our displays are described it became evident that many questions would arise concerning the existence and operation of the museum which should be answered. The Society is fortunate indeed to be able to "point with pride" to a museum devoted entirely to archaeology under its direct control and management. This is possible only because of the public spirit and generosity of one of our members who, with the cooperation of a number of non-members, has set up a sort of "holding company" known as the Bronson Museum Trustees. This group is not organized for the purpose of operating a museum but to hold certain properties, to exercise a local control of the museum quarters, and to maintain the local nature of the venture.

The name Bronson which appears in the organizational title of the sponsors and which we too have selected as the name of our museum is in commemoration of Dr. John R. Bronson whose home once stood on the spot now occupied by the Bronson Building.

The Bronson Museum Trustees have granted to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society free and full use of the museum quarters together with certain furnishings, and as individuals they have contributed liberally to the initial costs. The society, in turn, has agreed to maintain the local character of the museum and to open its doors to the public at suitable hours.

Society control is vested in a Museum Committee appointed by the President with the advice and consent of our Trustees. This committee appoints a Director and several Curators upon whom the care of the museum devolves. As there are no paid

members of our staff it can be truthfully said that every penny contributed to the museum fund will be expended either in operational expense or in capital outlay.

In addition to our display rooms the society maintains here an office for the secretary, a library, a lecture hall for the use of the society and its subdivisions, workrooms in which archaeological research is carried out, and storage rooms in which the society collections are kept.

If you will turn to Funk and Wagnalls New College Dictionary (1947 edition) you will find a museum described as "Any place where curiosities, freaks, monstrosities, etc., are exhibited." Unfortunately just such a description has been implanted in the minds of too many individuals. We like to think of our museum as a sort of picture book, an attempt at visual education, whereby the visitor may learn with a minimum of effort something of the story of New England's past.

In this Museum Number of the Bulletin we are attempting to take those of you who have never visited our museum on a personal tour of the premises. First we invite you to inspect our displays with the help of our Curator, William S. Fowler, who will describe them to you and interpret the story which we are attempting to tell, after which we will take you behind the scenes and talk about the larger program which lies behind the displays which you will have seen and we hope enjoyed.

## MUSEUM DISPLAYS

*By William S. Fowler*

Realizing that rows upon rows of stone artifacts such as axes, knives, and projectile points displayed under glass, without adequate interpretation, are quite meaningless to the public, we have built into our museum six dioramas. These are exhibits with painted panoramic backgrounds that portray significant characteristics of the countryside as related to the age and locale of each display. In the foreground, which is constructed from natural materials in perspective with the pictorial background, are placed stone implements hafted in a probable aboriginal manner, as well as products of the related industries of the times. These archaeological properties are so placed as to appear to have been just laid down by their owners who have disappeared from the scene for the moment. In several instances, realistic figures may be seen in the background, which tends to make the displays living examples



of aboriginal life. Three periods of the cultural development of prehistoric New England are included in these dioramas: Late Pleistocene; Stone Bowl; and Ceramic-Agricultural. It may be well to state at this point that all exhibits have been developed in conformity with excavated evidence from several well documented sites in this region, reports of which have been published in recent Bulletin issues of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society covering sites at South Hadley, Wayland, Nunkatasset, Potter Pond, Oaklawn, and Ragged Mountain. From these sites has come what seems to be enough corroboration of the evidence to justify certain tentative conclusions, which have been used in forming the various museum exhibits.

Of the six dioramas, one displays the earliest known occupation of New England: the Late Pleistocene, before the forest had arrived; when only tundra covered the countryside. (Fig. 36) Here is seen a solitary camp with its unique stone-sand hearth overlooking an expanse of sand dunes and small bushes through which the upper reaches of the Taunton River winds. A second, portrays a quarry worker of the Stone Bowl age cutting out a block of steatite (soapstone) with a stone quarry pick, preparatory to the hollowing and shaping of a bowl to be used in the preparation of food. (Fig. 37) This is the first industrial age of New England that precedes that of ceramics and agriculture. The scene is in camp at a steatite quarry of the period, with one of the few large stone bowl-kettles in existence placed over a fire in the foreground. The third shows grave goods and a skeleton in place at the bottom of a grave shaft of the late ceramic age. Its ceramic mortuary pots exhibit traits that tend to date this burial about 1640 A. D. subsequent to the fall of the Pequot nation. Still a fourth consists of models and properties made to scale that portray a typical early 17th Century Indian village similar to the one at Titicut, in which native figures, male and female, are shown engaged in numerous domestic activities, including that of making a dugout canoe. (Fig. 38) The fifth exhibits the ceramic aspect of the last cultural uplift: the age of ceramic-agricultural activity. In front of a wigwam is displayed a restored ceramic pot of the "Early" period; a time when people were changing from the use of stone bowls to ceramic pots. (Fig. 39) And lastly, the sixth diorama depicts the agricultural aspect of this final period. Here is shown an open field in the woods where two squaws are engaged in preparing

corn hills in which kernels of corn are being planted; the work is being accomplished with native stone cultivating tools of the times.

Next in importance are exhibits of stone implements that seems to be the most diagnostic of their respective cultures. These are shown in three separate cases, each representing one of the three well defined culture periods following the Late Pleistocene that have been identified with cultural development in prehistoric New England. Here you may see classic examples of stone artifacts that played a significant part in the continuation of human existence throughout many years of cultural growth. The first of these cases represents the Early Archaic settlement, which includes accoutrements of a savage existence that suggest to some extent Asiatic source affinity with the later day Eskimos. As an example, Eskimo ulus have similar characteristics to semi-lunar knives of the Early Archaic that are now frequently called ulus. In a second case are shown implements and products of the Stone Bowl culture that include domestic and industrial traits of the age, but only those that have been substantiated as being contemporaneous. In the third case appear artifacts of the most significant traits of the last cultural uplift known as Ceramic-Agricultural. Included in this case are many of the stone implements that were in use among the coastal natives of New England before European explorers reached America in the 16th Century.

As probable proof of these culture delineations are presented artifacts that conform to stratigraphically recorded stone traits from excavated field research on several different sites, and these are graphically displayed in an upright exhibit. (Fig. 40) In this case, archaeological stratification is depicted with vertical showing of these diagnostic stone specimens from several culture sequences, as found specifically at the Titicut site in the Taunton River basin. Here one may study at a glance the development of projectile points, knives, scrapers, and heavier implements, the various changes being observed one over the other. A more impressive display cannot be imagined in which to show the value of carefully recorded archaeological recoveries as related to their respective vertical positions and cultural sequence.

Of considerable interest is an upright display of a projectile point classification in which actual





FIG. 36



FIG. 37



specimens representing different types are classified and named according to an accepted pattern approved by the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. By this system, simplification of terms has been effected to a point where identifications may be more readily arrived at and remembered in describing projectile points.

Covering the most archaic cultures of North America and showing the development of the spear point during ancient ages is a small compact display with a colorful illustrated background. You may find in this exhibit an answer to your queries of how man came into America, and when; how he managed to survive; and how he reached New England.

An extensive display of hafted stone implements has been made possible by many years of research in the field and laboratory. In this exhibit are shown many different kinds of stone blades, all effectively attached to handles or shafts in ways that are thought to approximate methods used in aboriginal days. In accomplishing this work, it was first necessary to discover the principal stone woodworking tools of our native Americans, and then to apply them in cutting and forming the different types of hafts. Use of these stone tools in finishing the various handles has produced woodwork that simulates that of native workmen, and sets this display apart from other artificially hafted exhibits as being refreshingly unique. (Fig. 41) With further reference to this exhibit, it should be observed that the various methods of lashing that are presented had to be discovered by trial and error; did not just happen of their own accord. While in most instances they may look simple, it is no exaggeration to say that many required weeks of study, and one a full year, before the results as exhibited were finally attained. One will not adequately understand the struggle for survival that accompanied all cultural uplifts until one succeeds in mastering a full understanding of woodworking techniques and the inventive skill and acquired patience that helped make it possible.

Then there are numerous miscellaneous exhibits each displaying some special feature of interest. For example, in a small well lighted case is an unusual "Red Paint" cache, which when excavated was found covered by a flat stone on one side of which was incised a pictograph (an infrequent occurrence among archaeological recoveries of the Northeast). Buried in a quantity of red ochre and enclosed with

stone slabs, just as it appeared when excavated, is shown a classic grooved axe of the Stone Bowl age, a clumsily shaped plummet, and a white quartz tool presumed to be the stylus used in cutting the pictograph. This recovery is from the Titicut site, and there is some difference of opinion as to what if anything the pictograph means. Because of this mystery and the unique occurrence of such a cache buried in a cist, this display is a distinct addition to the museum.

Then there is on exhibit an unusually fine example of a large ceramic urn with associated artifacts from a site in northern New Jersey. This ceramic vessel is from the Late Prehistoric stage before pottery had flowered into the superb full globular ware with prominent collar and castellations of the Mohawk-Iroquoian tradition. Of especial note is the meticulous dentate stamping of the chevron embellishment about its constricted neck, and the uniform cylindrical shape of its body. When one considers its excessive weight, about 60 pounds, besides the fact that it had to be constructed by eye without the aid of a potter's wheel and then fired over an open hearth, it seems incredible that primitive skill could have reached such perfection as to make its production possible.

Other cases show examples of reconstructed ceramic pots of different stages, so that one may study the evolutionary development through which ceramics passed. Of particular note is a case showing projectile points recovered from New England sites, together with the stone stock from which they are presumed to have been made much of which had its origin in distant localities. Examination of these specimens will give one a good idea of the extent of travel or trade that existed at times between the coastal peoples of the Northeast and those tribes living over the mountain divide to the west.

Finally, there is a display of typical "Maine Cemetery Complex" stone implements from so-called "Red Paint" caches in Maine; a varied collection of bone implements from Maine shellheaps; an extensive stone implement assemblage from the Wayland site in the Concord River drainage; displays of artifacts from Cape Cod, Marion, Assawompsett Lake, and Marshfield; and two large cases of Ohio artifacts from the Great Serpent Mound, and from the Raisch-Smith site.





FIG. 38

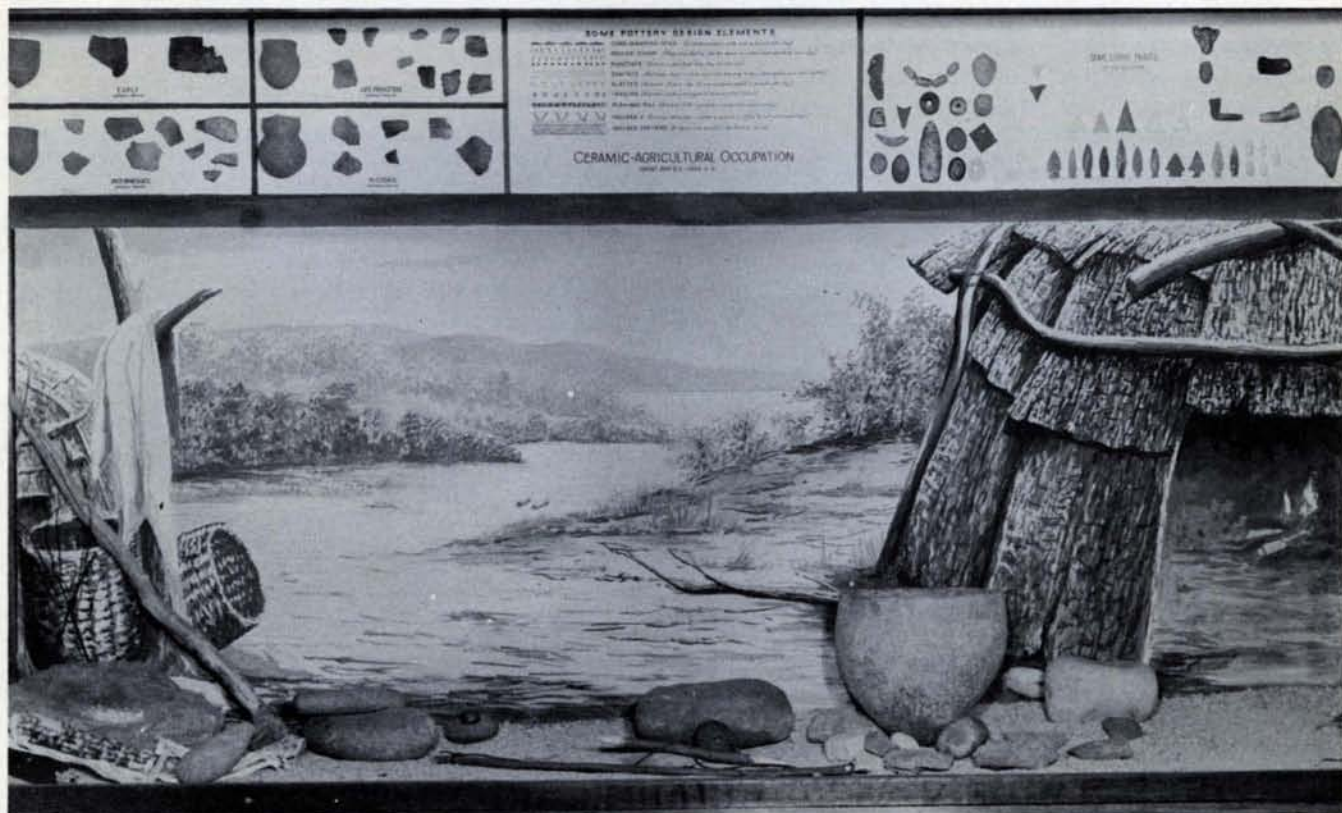


FIG. 39



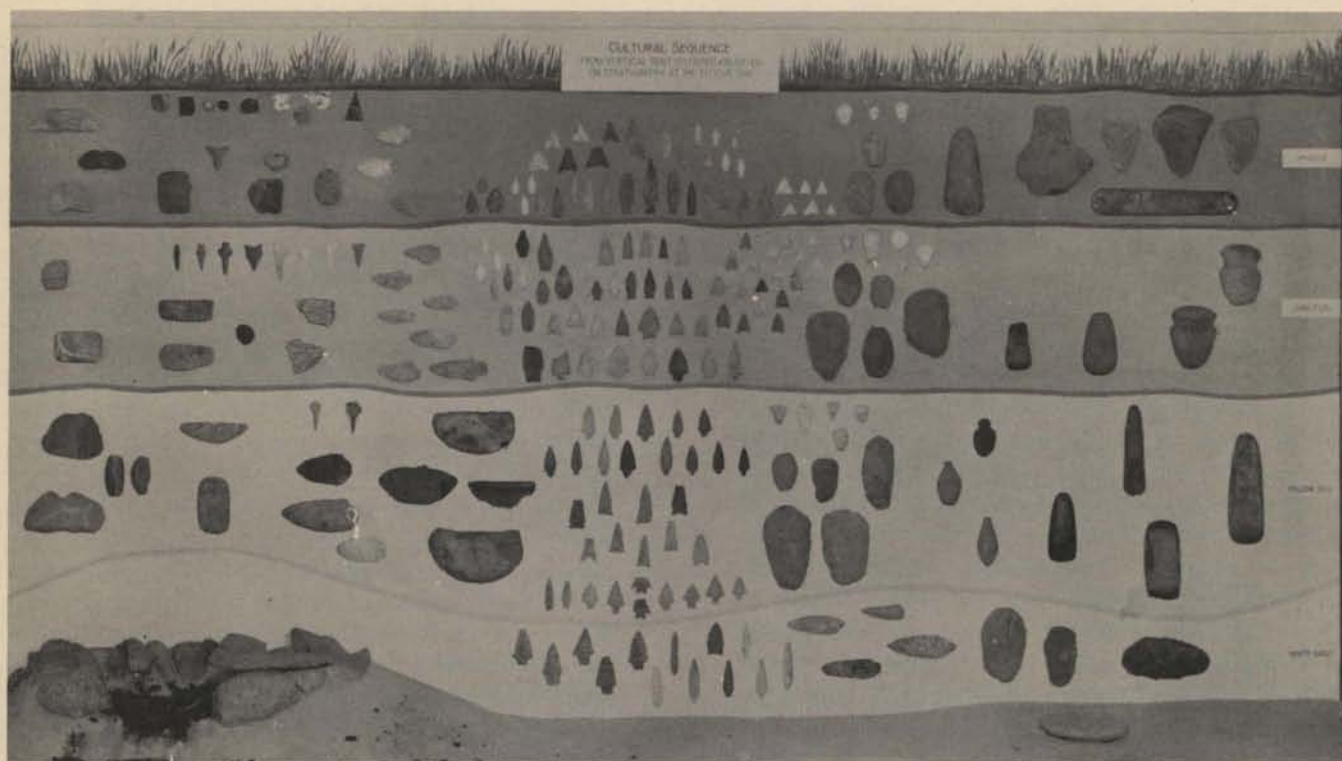


FIG. 40



FIG. 41



## INTERPRETATION OF THE EVIDENCE

*By William S. Fowler*

Back of the excavated evidence upon which the museum exhibits are based, lies an inspiring story of human struggle to maintain life on the one hand, and to better the standard of living on the other. All details concerning this human effort may never be known, but enough evidence has now appeared, it would seem, to justify a limited postulation. As further discoveries take place, modifications and additions will be made to enrich this narrative of cultural growth. However, it seems clear that as long as scientific investigation is willing to recognize conclusions based only on rigid patterns of earlier approved research, so long will the public be deprived of a more logical approach to the ancient past. For an academic attitude and dogmatism based only upon old approved standards is usually unrealistic and often falls short of the truth.

On the other hand, following less restricted methods, and applying common sense to fresh evidence as it appears, not as it ought to appear according to preconceived beliefs, is much more likely to produce the truth. It is mental discipline of this kind that has attempted to discover the truth concerning the evidence that is displayed at the Bronson Museum.

### LATE PLEISTOCENE SETTLEMENT

According to well documented corresponding evidence from the earliest horizon on glacial deposits at two sites in the Narragansett Bay drainage, and a third on a salt marsh inlet north of Boston, it now seems likely that man came into the coastal areas of New England from the south and up the coast at the early date of about 6500 B. C. While he did not come in great numbers, not more than a family group at a time, it appears probable that he found his way by dugout up the many navigable streams and camped on their banks. Here it is that these Paleo-Americans left evidence of their unique hearths and spear points, and here it is that the most ancient human history of New England is written in the sands of time.

There is every reason to believe that this first movement of man into the Northeast covered a span of at least a thousand years, probably much

longer, during which period only slight changes in the all-important spear point took place. However, at the end of the period, the once popular fluted point (Folsom-like) had ceased to exist. During this period, hunters with their families dressed in rough skins came and went; winters were probably arctic and forbidding; summers were livable but short; results of the ice sheet that had covered the land in glacial times and had not entirely disappeared. Undoubtedly, environmental conditions then were similar to those of today on the Barrens of northern Canada: an extensive tundra waste that stretches west between the northern part of Hudson Bay and the Mackenzie River. Here no forests appear, just small bushes and quantities of deep thick moss that extends as far as the eye can see; seasons are arctic; and deep under foot in the moss is the everlasting ice that never melts. Once this was probably the prevailing condition in New England, and it has now moved north to the Barrens following the retreat of the glacier.

Imagine if you can this same condition existing in New England during late Pleistocene times; animals such as elk moved in from forested lands to the south for a few months in the summer to feed upon the moss; and our Paleo-Americans followed their movements in much the same manner no doubt, as arctic hunters of the north follow the migrations of animals today. Undoubtedly, these ancient pioneers abandoned their camps during the winter, returning with the game during the short summer months; living in temporary skin or brush shelters of which no evidence now remains. Since their camps are usually found on the shores of navigable streams it seems probable that these streams provided the highways along which they travelled while the finding of a ground stone gouge in one of their ancient hearths indicates a knowledge of constructing the dug-out canoe as a vehicle. While these ancient people undoubtedly possessed a very rudimentary type of culture there is one trait in the complex which seems to indicate a desire for artistic expression. At one of their sites, graveurs, similar to tools found at the Lindenmeier site in Colorado, were discovered. At Lindenmeier these tools were associated with bone fragments having designs incised upon them.



## EARLY ARCHAIC SETTLEMENT

Among the human migratory movements that followed that of the Late Pleistocene, certain ones are well defined. Of the earlier ones, we see signs of what constitutes a marked culture settlement about 2500 B. C.: the Early Archaic. In those days there emerges throughout the Northeast evidence of new comers from the north. By then the climate had become more livable with the retreat of the glacial ice pack. These northerners brought with them certain equipment that resembles that of the Eskimos, principally the ulu and plummet (fish lure). However, since the Eskimos are known to have arrived from Asia at a much later date, it is assumed that our Early Archaic Americans were an advance wave from the Old World that had a common Asiatic origin with that of the Eskimos. They used the spear, exclusively, of which the harpoon played an important role.

As with the latter day Eskimos, their fishing was accomplished with a single line and sinker by a method known as "bobbing". They were ingenious in the skillful manufacture of four or five different types of spear points, which had not existed before, and in the production of well made ground implements such as ulus and deep channeled gouges. However, these tools were all made to supplement their survival with but little thought of improving their standard of living. Such advanced ideas were slow in coming; kept social betterments to a minimum, while savage existence persisted for a long time with little change. There were no cups or kettles; food consisted mainly of animal or fish solids. Nevertheless, these persistent people had many virile qualities, for they multiplied and occupied a large area of the country before they were replaced by a succeeding migration.

(1) *Footnote.* There has been some objection to this thesis that New England was the probable center of the Stone Bowl industry from which the concept spread southward as far as Alabama wherever steatite outcrops appeared. The reader's attention is called to a significant report that bears upon this subject. In the Smithsonian Report for 1939, p.p. 473,478, David I. Bushnell cites early evidence from the upper Tennessee Valley, which has to do with the delineation of three culture periods. The earliest of these contained unique cylindrical graves of small diameter with skeletal remains closely flexed, and from them the culture was named, "Round Grave". Now, in these graves appeared many soapstone vessel fragments with other material which has been associated with the "Round Grave People", the earliest recognized culture in the Upper Tennessee Valley. No soapstone fragments occurred on sites of the two more recent cultures.

## STONE BOWL SETTLEMENT

Somewhere about 1500 B. C. a complete cultural change is indicated by the many new stone implements and projectile points that supersede those of the Early Archaic. There is so little evidence of evolutionary trait development from the previous period that it is generally believed a new immigration came in at this time, and either drove out the indigenous peoples, or settled down among them. Since a few early traits are found to persist in a modified form, the latter condition seems more probable. Further, it may be that the nomadic archaic tribes were by this time moving northward in pursuit of the arctic herds, which, with the arrival of more temperate climatic conditions, had gone north in search of their accustomed colder climate.

The new comers are thought to have issued from the Great Lakes area; to have been an advance wave of the Mound Builders, who overran their Middlewestern terminus. They introduced into the Northeast the custom of smoking, which carried with it the knowledge of how to make three different styles of stone pipes: straight, elbow, and platform. Searching for a stone from which they might make their pipes may have led them to New England's steatite (soapstone) outcrops. Once discovered for the manufacture of pipes, it was not long before they had conceived the idea of pecking, cutting, scraping, and grinding the soft steatite, as well as chlorite, serpentine, and granite into all kinds of eating vessels from cups to kettles.

Bushnell states: "Certain types of objects which belonged to the 'Round Grave People' connect them with 'the Algonkian culture of the middle Atlantic seaboard and point to decided influence if not actual relationship'. This suggests that the knowledge of soapstone was carried southward by early Algonkian groups who entered the region centuries ago and from whom other groups acquired the art of making soapstone vessels."

Bushnell concludes by saying: "and if the hypothesis is correct, *the stone was used in the North long before it was quarried in the South*. Consequently, some of the utensils found in New England may be much older than similar pieces discovered in the valley of the Savannah". While it is true that there is evidence, principally during the last cultural uplift, of influences from outside culture centers that pressed into New England, the most reliable evidence to date supports a cultural development from within for its Stone Bowl age that radiate knowledge to outside culture areas. Also, it appears that there continued a display of ingenious origination that often modified or supplanted the attempted diffusion of foreign traits in later days.



Thus was developed New England's first manufacturing enterprise, the Stone Bowl industry; and from this the period has been named, the Stone Bowl age. The stage was set for a spiritual awakening, in which man toiled not only to survive, but what is more important, to create products that would make life richer and fuller. Woman, at last, was permitted to share in this social and economic revival by performing specialized work in the steatite quarries. In fact, it may not be speculating too much to say, that it was she who suggested the styles of bowls to be cut out of stone; and it was she who with finishing tools may have worked them into their ultimate shapes at the quarries, and also after they had been conveyed to village sites.

Whatever took place, it seems certain that it was an age in which people developed a relatively high degree of inventive skill; when seeds of a new social relationship between men and women were sown; when workers of both sexes labored side by side at the quarry in a concerted effort to produce household products for the welfare of the family. Such an industrial activity, occurring as it did for the first time in man's development in North America, must have made a tremendous impact upon the social and economic life of the day; created a cultural uplift that tended to remove man further away from savagery. (1)

It is believed that Stone Bowl man brought with him the bow and arrow, as evidence of small arrow points appear for the first time in this horizon. However, hunting with the spear was still much in evidence, and it was the custom to dispatch wounded game with a pronged club as in the previous archaic age, instead of risking the use of another spear or arrow. Aboriginal man in all ages probably put more thought and effort into developing his projectile points and shafts than into most anything else, for they were the principal means of preventing starvation. Over the millenniums of human progress they have been an essential accoutrement that above all else have made human existence possible. Therefore, they deserve our great respect, and research into their uses and development becomes an absorbing chapter in the history of man's advance.

#### CERAMIC-AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT

The dawn of a new era was now at hand, when the Stone Bowl Makers would no longer have to operate the quarries; could devote their time to other pursuits. Just how it happened is not known, but in some way the knowledge of how to make pots

out of clay was brought to the people. Probably from the west came the prevailing technique of the first ceramic stage that produced a vessel with straight neck, conoidal base, and cord-wrapped malleation within and without, from clay paste that had coarse mineral temper. It was women who met the challenge to make these ceramic vessels, and thus they became the potters. They saw the advantage of light weight cooking pots and of being able to make this household ware at their camp eliminating forever the long treks to the steatite quarries. Thus the all-important quarries gradually lost their importance and deposits of suitable clay took precedence.

Why do we think it improbable that ceramics were not introduced into New England by a new human migration that overran the country and replaced the Stone Bowl makers? For one thing, only two or three new implement traits appear in the ceramic horizon on excavated sites, while as many as fifteen and possibly more traits of the preceding Stone Bowl culture continue to occur. This seems to indicate a racial continuity. Then again, it is possible to discern an adaptation in the latter cultural period of certain tools of the Stone Bowl age in modified form which were being put to new uses.

Somewhere along the way, the ceramic potters became the recipients once more of something that was to alter drastically their way of life; the knowledge of maize cultivation and associated agricultural traits. In this instance again it was probably woman who seized upon the new enterprise; was able to sense in it a more stable food supply; undertook the difficult task of clearing, planting, cultivating, and harvesting in unfavorable wooded areas.

From recent study it seems likely that this cultural period started its long span of development several hundred years before the beginning of the Christian era; probably about 800 B. C. Many years were to be spent in improving the shape and decoration of the clay pot as it passed through its four stages of development. Also, it seems evident that it required all these centuries of trial and error before cultivation of maize was able to produce respectable yields, judged by our present standards. This was a transitional age in which industrial activity shifted from men to women; when old established male functional work of stone bowl making became decadent, but on the other hand, when female production was in its ascendancy.

Woman's rise to a higher plane of service and personal respect far outstripped that of any previous



age. At last she had come into her own and had revealed her intentions to let no opportunity pass by that she could use to further her advancement. It was she, who, through years of arduous toil, brought the production of maize to its final fruitage in Colonial times; and it was she, more than anyone else, who kept starvation at times from decimating her people.

A new and more reliable food supply in the form of maize brought relatively more leisure to society, as production of cereals has done the world over. While at the start of the period, cultural readjustments were inevitable, as time went on, the development of ceramics with its many and changing creations toward aesthetic improvements indicates a new spiritual awakening. Therefore, we see again another cultural uplift taking place that was to raise the standard of living one step higher above its former Stone Bowl Industrial status.

One of the most convincing proofs in New England archaeology that seems to establish the

belief that people of the agricultural age had direct descent from the Stone Bowl Makers is the probable source of their three chief cultivating tools. Instead of adopting the digging stick of the Southwest or the hoe and spade of the Middlewest, they apparently drew upon their personal experience in the steatite quarries in the use of tailing removal tools, or upon such tradition for development of their cultivating gear.

Realistic research bent on discovering the truth even though it might not agree with established beliefs of approved archaeological investigation of the past has brought to light three probable agricultural implements; the triangular hoe, corn planter, and spade. To anyone familiar with steatite quarry tools, the resemblance to them of these three cultivating implements is inescapable. By the best methods of reasoning it now seems clear that from quarry triangular tailing breakers came triangular hoes; from quarry hand spades came improved spades with handles; and from quarry spike-shaped tailing breakers came spiked corn planters.

Now that you have visited and enjoyed, we hope, that portion of our museum in which are shown the results of our labors, it becomes our pleasant duty to introduce you to the more humble quarters in which we carry out the business of the Society and the Museum.

### THE LECTURE HALL

By either of two entrances one may go directly from the museum gallery into the lecture hall. Here we have facilities for about one hundred persons for the usual type of meeting, or can entertain about half that number if a meal is to be served. A Bosch and Lomb projector which will show both standard and two by two slides as well as opaque objects, and a beaded screen, is available. A large blackboard for the use of anyone who likes to scribble as he talks is provided, as well as a portable screen upon which maps or similar objects can be pinned. Tables, dishes and silverware to accommodate the number mentioned above are stored in the kitchen so that it is possible to serve a meal with ease. About the walls of this hall are several cases in which geological specimens are displayed. The Society often holds general meetings in this hall and it is available to any of the Chapters who desire to make use of it. On occasions we have granted the use of these facilities to other organizations as a public service to the community.

### WORKROOMS

To the rear of the lecture hall is a room which we normally call our workroom but which upon the proper occasion becomes our kitchen. This room with its ample cupboard room and work space provides us with an excellent place to carry out the work necessary to the operation of the museum. Here we spend many hours classifying and numbering the specimens which come into the museum, restoring stone and ceramic objects, photographing, planning and constructing new exhibits, or just engaging in the friendly arguments which seem so necessary to museum work.

Our curator has developed and successfully applied a new technique in the restoration of clay pottery; many examples of his work may be seen in the displays. On several occasions he has been called upon to undertake this type of work for other institutions or individuals. Arrangements for this work can be made with the curator by any person who may so desire. We hope that as we continue to grow we can add many needed devices to our present facilities, and undertake many additional services for the museum and membership.

### THE SOCIETY OFFICE

As one leaves the elevator the Office of the Society is directly opposite. In this spacious and



well lighted office the everyday business of your society is conducted. Here one will find the secretary with all the paraphernalia of his office, the small but rapidly growing library of the society, and a large table about which the Trustees of the Society are wont to gather. The library, by the way, is open to the membership, most of the books are available for borrowing, and those which we do not like to circulate may be used in the library by any member or serious student.

### THE STORAGE ROOM

On the floor directly above the museum proper is our storage room in which is kept the material not presently on display. Two sides of this room is shelved from floor to ceiling and heavy storage trays which nest properly on the shelves have been provided. The artifacts in storage have been sorted either in types or by site and the trays containing them are plainly marked to indicate the contents. A convenient table is provided so that those who desire to study any particular type of artifact or site may easily locate and spread out the material. Many individuals have availed themselves of this privilege during the past year.

Among the objects set forth in the Charter of our Society are these words, "to foster a more rational public understanding of the aims and limits of archaeological research." Here at the Bronson Museum we are attempting to do just that. Our visitors are shown the results of our archaeological labors so arranged that they tell a story of the several cultural groups that have succeeded one another in southern New England. Our displays are a visual expression of our aims and an admission of our limitations.

We have found several ways in which to convince the public that we have a worth while story to tell. Possibly one of the most effective of these is the invitations extended to the public schools of Attleboro and surrounding communities to bring groups of children to the museum. The news of a "visit to the museum" is carried home and in a few days our visitors return with their parents and perhaps sisters and brothers. Another successful method is to offer to various groups the opportunity to hold a private meeting at our museum, the entertainment for the evening being a tour of the museum and, if desired, a talk on some archaeological subject by a staff member. In this manner we have carried our message to many individuals and attracted some of them into society membership.

There is another aspect in the effect which the existence of the Museum has had upon our Society. During the first decade of our existence as an organization we were homeless waifs, our society had no central address, its officers were scattered in several communities, our Trustees were forced to meet at various homes at which the records of the society were not available, and there was a noticeable lack of cohesion in our efforts. As the passing of time brought changes in our official family and the growing records were passed from hand to hand there arose the difficulty of storage room in private homes and the additional difficulty of availability when needed. Our growing membership also was in difficulty. Where did one obtain back numbers of the Bulletin, secure membership applications, or direct questions of an archaeological nature? There was no central clearing house, no entity about which the growing life of the society could revolve.

Now we have a home, a permanent address, a place where all of the society records are stored and available. No matter what the desire of a member a letter to the museum will either bring the answer or will be forwarded to the proper person. Here our Trustees may meet and have available all of the records necessary to the transaction of society business.

In the early days of our society the repository was located at the museum of one of our member institutions. Here the collections of the society were safely stored and adequately looked after. However there was no opportunity to place them on display and little urge to add to them. Few persons wish to donate materials to be packed away in vaults, buried almost as effectively as if they had never been recovered from their original source. Many of our members possess individual collections of great archaeological value and to some of these the question of ultimate disposal eventually arises. With an active museum in which material is rotated between storage and display and where even in storage is available for study we are in a position to attract their favorable attention.

We have many plans for the future of our museum but perhaps the most ambitious of these plans is that which concerns the insurance of permanence. The ultimate security is, of course, a building of our own and to that end we have a building fund. At the moment this fund is small indeed but there is no need for it to remain so, small contributions to this fund are as welcome as large ones, keep us in mind.



Perhaps it would not be out of place to remind all of our members and friends into whose hands this Bulletin has found its way that the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Inc. is an educational corporation and that donations to it may be deducted from income when calculating tax returns.

This is your museum and your society, its future is in your hands. We have attempted in this

Bulletin to introduce you to our Museum, to tell you what we have been doing with your contributions, to explain to you our plans and hopes for the future. We need your assistance, your help, and your moral support. We will welcome donations of implements to our collections, financial support, or any suggestions that come to your mind. Visit us if you can but be with us in spirit if a visit is not possible.



